

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04917 181033Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /109 W

-----015263 182025Z /46

R 171201Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7236
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4917

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, PK
SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS' STRIKE: POSITIONS HARDEN AS POLITICIANS
JUMP IN

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 4773 (B) ISLAMABAD 4549 (C) KARACHI 2398 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: POSITIONS CONTINUE TO HARDEN IN THE CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) AND THE
JOURNALISTS' UNION (REFTELS). THIRTEEN MORE JOURNALISTS WERE
SENTENCED FOR THE VIOLATION OF MARTIAL LAW ORDERS (MLO), AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04917 181033Z

MLA MAY 16 ARRESTED SIX LEADERS OF THE COMBINED JOURNALISTS'
UNION. POLITICIANS HAVE TAKEN THEIR FIRST STEP ONTO THE
CONFRONTATION BANDWAGON IN SUPPORT OF THE JOURNALISTS. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE MLA AND THE NATIONAL
JOURNALISTS' UNION CONTINUES. THIRTEEN MORE JOURNALISTS AND PRESS

WORKERS WERE CONVICTED MAY 17 OF HAVING VIOLATED MARTIAL LAW ORDERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST OF THE MLA'S CLOSURE OF THE LAHORE EDITION OF MUSAWAAT (REFTELS). ALL THIRTEEN WERE GIVEN VARIOUS TERMS (I.E. MONTHS) OF HARD LABOR (RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT) AND FINES. THOSE SENTENCED WERE A MIXTURE OF PROFESSIONAL AND CLERICAL PRESS EMPLOYEES. FIVE PERSONS WERE ACQUITTED. NONE OF THE CONVICTED PRESSMEN WAS SENTENCED TO LASHES.

3. IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO TIE UP THE STRIKE'S LEADERSHIP, THE MLA MAY 16 ARRESTED SIX LEADERS OF THE COMBINED CENTRAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS (PFUJ) AND THE ALL PAKISTAN NATIONAL EDITORS' CONFERENCE (APNEC). THOSE ARRESTED WERE APPARENTLY NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE HUNGER STRIKE, AND THEIR ARREST THUS MARKS AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFRONTATION. THE PFUJ-APNEC CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLED FOR A TWO-HOUR NATIONAL PRESS WORK STOPPAGE MAY 15, BUT THE "PEN-DOWN" WAS LARGELY IGNORED.

4. THE MLA SEEMS TO HAVE HIT A SENSITIVE NERVE WITH THE FLOGGINGS CARRIED OUT MAY 13 ON FOUR JOURNALISTS. POLITICAL LEADERS IN PARTICULAR HAVE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO THE LASHINGS. ASGHAR KHAN, PRESIDENT OF TEHRIQ-I-ISTIQLAL, HAS URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE THOSE STILL UNDER ARREST, AND HE CONDEMNED THE USE OF LASHES AS PUNISHMENT FOR THE STRIKING JOURNALISTS. PARTY SPOKESMEN FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE JAMIAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 04917 181033Z

ULEMA-I-PAKISTAN ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE PUNISHMENTS METED OUT TO THE PRESSMEN AND URGING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY (PPP) "MODERATE" MAULANA KAUSAR NIAZI HAS ALSO APPEALED TO CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA TO RELEASE THE ARRESTED JOURNALISTS AND FORBID ALL FURTHER LASHINGS.

5. LABOR FEDERATION LEADERS, WHO HAD UP UNTIL NOW REMAINED SILENT ON THE STRIKE, HAVE ALSO BEEN QUICK OFF THE MARK WITH THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE HARSHER SENTENCES. MIRZA MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-PAKISTAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION, AND BASHIR BAKHTIAR, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, LED THE LIST OF THOSE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE FLOGGINGS OF JOURNALISTS.

6. IN THE FACE OF THESE CALLS, HOWEVER, THE MARTIAL BFG ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT REACTED TO DEFEND ITS HANDLING OF THE DISPUTE OR TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS BY OFFERING TO NEGOTIATE OR--ONE WAY OUT--TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE ENTIRE QUESTION.

HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA04917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780210-0185
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780550/aaaabqly.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 98273e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ISLAMABAD 4773, 78 ISLAMABAD 4549, 78 KARACHI 2398
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2669152
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALISTS' STRIKE: POSITIONS HARDEN AS POLITICIANS JUMP IN
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98273e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014